

Rain, Snow, Mud Wreak Havoc in County

19 Feb 1986

Flooding, snowslides, mudslides, power outages and inundated basements. Most valley residents have been affected by one or more of these during the past week.

The weather began to take its toll on February 12, with the death of a Minnesota truck driver on ice glazed Highway 189 near Deer Creek Reservoir. (See pictures and story on page 4A).

Heavy rain and wind over the weekend began to cause problems for city, state and county workers Monday morning with the closure of Provo Canyon by a massive snowslide that destroyed the concession stand and buried the parking lot at Bridal Veil. Commuters to and from Provo to Heber were forced to detour home and to work. (See related story on page 1).

Locally, problems came to a head Wednesday after heavy rains drenched Wasatch County Tuesday night.

Canals east of Heber, already full from a week of steady rain, went over their banks, forcing officials to divert water down Center Street. This, along with the water already flowing, created flooding and sandbag crews were busy trying to keep the water away from homes in the area.

widespread in the area. There were reports of flooded basements in Midway, Wallsburg, Valley Hills and other parts of Heber. In some cases flooding was not confined to basements and several homes were damaged by floodwater.

Valley residents were further inconvenienced Wednesday by a power outage that lasted two hours. According to Robert Morris of Heber Light and Power the outage was caused by a fault in the system that triggered a breaker designed to detect such faults, close and then open again, restoring power. "In this case though," said Morris, "the breaker closed but fused shut. We had to bypass the breaker." Power crews are expected to be able to repair the breaker which was installed recently at a cost of \$50,000. Morris said they had no idea what caused the system to malfunction, but he speculated it was weather related.

Sources at the U.S. Weather Bureau in Salt Lake said that another storm is expected Thursday, but should not be as severe as the weather that has plagued the county the past few days. They look for lower temperatures and decreased winds.

(See related photos on page 2A)

City and county crews as well as volunteers worked feverishly Wednesday placing sand bags along east Center Street. Heavy run-off from unseasonal rain threatened homes in the area.

Flood 19 Feb 1986





Water, Water

Upper Left- Heber business sandbag against rising flood waters as Main Street water rises.

Left- This vehicle found deep water as flooding washed away road embankments.

Upper Right- Department of Transportation equipment tackles the monumental task of snow removal in Daniel Canyon.

